

















SALTWATER FISHING

SALTWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS







Unless otherwise established, there are no size limits on species not listed and unless otherwise noted, possession limits for saltwater fish are the same as the daily bag limit.

COMMON COASTAL SPECIES		
Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
COBIA (Ling or Lemonfish)		 Cobia
33" min fork length	2 daily per person	
DRUM		 Black Drum  Red Drum
16" min total length	BLACK DRUM: 5 daily per person - bag and possession No more than one over 27" max total length	
	RED DRUM (Redfish)¹: 5 daily per person - bag ² No more than one over 27" max total length	
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER		 Southern Flounder
No Size Limit	10 daily per person (for each consecutive day on the water)	
MACKEREL		 King Mackerel  Spanish Mackerel
KING MACKEREL³: 24" min fork length	2 daily per person	
SPANISH MACKEREL³: 12" min fork length	15 daily per person	
STRIPED MULLET		 Striped Mullet
No Size Limit	100 lbs. daily	
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)⁴		 Spotted Seatrout
12" min total length	25 daily per person - bag ² ; 15 daily per person with no more than two over 25" (in specified areas)	



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HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ⁵		
Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
MARLIN ⁶		
BLUE MARLIN: 99" min lower jaw fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	 Blue Marlin
WHITE MARLIN: 66" min lower jaw fork length		 White Marlin
SAILFISH ⁶		
63" min lower jaw fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	 Sailfish
SHARK ⁷		
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE & BONNETHEAD SHARK⁷: None	1 daily per person - possession	 Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
OTHER SHARKS (EXCEPT Prohibited silky and sandbar) ⁷ : 54" min fork length	1 in aggregate per vessel per trip - possession. No silky or sandbar sharks. No prohibited species. (See complete list of Prohibited Sharks on page 39)	
SWORDFISH ⁸		
29" min carcass length or 33 lbs. min dressed weight	1 per person Not more than 5 per vessel per trip	 Swordfish
TUNA ⁸		
BLUEFIN TUNA⁹: 73" min curved fork length	1 per vessel per year with appropriate federal permit as incidental catch during the open season	 Bluefin Tuna
BIGEYE TUNA⁹: 27" min curved fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	 Bigeye Tuna
YELLOWFIN TUNA⁹: 27" min curved fork length	3 daily per person	 Yellowfin Tuna

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REEF FISH ³		
Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
GROUPE ^{10,11}		 Gag Grouper
BLACK & GAG ¹⁰ : 22" min total length	4 daily in aggregate No more than one speckled hind and one Warsaw grouper per vessel and not more than 4 red grouper per person and not more than 2 gag per person included in the bag limit	
RED & YELLOWFIN ¹⁰ : 20" min total length		
SCAMP ¹⁰ : 16" min total length		
GOLIATH & NASSAU: Take Prohibited	Take/Possession Prohibited	
SNAPPER ¹²		 Red Snapper  Gray Snapper  Lane Snapper
RED ^{11,13} : 16" min total length	2 daily per person ²	
MUTTON: 16" min total length	10 daily per person in aggregate ³	
QUEEN, BLACKFIN, SILK & WENCHMAN: None		
SCHOOLMASTER, CUBERA, GRAY (man-grove), YELLOWTAIL, DOG & MAHOGANY: 12" min total length		
LANE: 8" min total length	20 daily per person in aggregate ³	
VERMILION: 10" min total length		
ALMACO JACK		 Almaco Jack
No Size Limit	20 daily per person in aggregate	
GRAY TRIGGERFISH		 Gray Triggerfish
14" min fork length	20 daily per person in aggregate ³	
TILEFISH (Goldface, Blackline, Anchor & Blueline)		
No Size Limit	20 daily per person	

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REEF FISH ³		
Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
AMBERJACK		 Greater Amberjack
GREATER^{11,14}: 30" min fork length	1 daily per person ³	
LESSER & BANDED RUDDERFISH¹⁴: 14" - 22" fork length slot limit	5 daily per person in aggregate	
HOGFISH		 Black Seabass
12" min fork length	5 daily per person	
BLACK SEABASS		
8" min total length	No Bag or Possession Limit	

Black Seabass: US Government; All other images by Duane Raver

EXPLANATION OF SALTWATER CREEL & SIZE LIMITS

¹RED DRUM (REDFISH) AND SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

Recreational saltwater anglers may possess a two days' bag limit on land; however, no person shall be in possession of fish over the daily bag limit in any one day or while fishing or while on the water, unless that recreational saltwater angler is aboard a trawler engaged in commercial fishing for a consecutive period of longer than 25 hours. Take or possession of red drum in federal waters is prohibited.

²OFF-WATER BAG LIMIT

Two days' bag limit allowed in possession off of the water, not while fishing or in a boat.

³CHARTER VESSELS & HEADBOATS

Two day limit allowed in possession only on charter vessels and headboats on multi day trips, if the vessels have two licensed operators, as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips more than 12 hours, and if each angler has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel verifying the length of the trip.

⁴SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

12" minimum total length, 25 fish per person daily bag limit. EXCEPT: 15 fish daily bag and possession limit, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25" total length, regardless of where taken in a defined area of Cameron and Calcasieu parishes located in